

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 464

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Donald Williams of  
Memphis.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the tragic death of Officer Donald Williams on January 29, 1998; and

WHEREAS, Don Williams was a distinguished citizen of the state of Tennessee who was very dedicated to his profession, community and family; and

WHEREAS, he will be remembered as a compassionate, spiritual gentleman who was an invaluable asset to the Memphis Police Department; and

WHEREAS, born on March 18, 1960, Donald was the son of proud parents Mrs. Ivory Avant Williams and the late Benny Williams; and

WHEREAS, Donald graduated from Bishop Byrne High School in 1978 and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from the University of Tennessee at Martin; and

WHEREAS, during his exemplary collegiate career, Donald Williams was a mainstay on the football and wrestling teams, and was an esteemed member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Iota Zeta Chapter; and

WHEREAS, Donald Williams' meritorious tenure with the Memphis Police Department earned him numerous awards and accolades, even a brief list of which is inspiring: the Blue and Gold Wounded in Service Award by the Exchange Clubs of America, Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Contribution to Law Enforcement and Service Rendered to the Memphis Police Department and the Memphis Police Department's Award for Perfect Attendance; and

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WHEREAS, before his tragic death, Officer Donald Williams served with acumen as the officer assigned to the Longview Middle School and South Side High School; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Officer Donald Williams devoted his time and talents to numerous church activities, and also served as the coach of the Immaculate Conception Schools' 5<sup>th</sup> Grade basketball and soccer teams; and

WHEREAS, Donald Williams was an active and devout member of the St. Augustine church, of which he was a cherished member for 23 years; and

WHEREAS, a Boy Scout in his youth, Officer Williams served as the Scoutmaster of Troop 143 until his untimely death; and

WHEREAS, his unflagging commitment to his community earned him the Bronze Pelican Emblem for Outstanding Service in Catholic Scouting by the Catholic Diocese in Memphis and the Omega Psi Phi Service Award; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Donald Williams leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, Donald enjoyed the loving companionship of his devoted wife, Sharon Williams; he was the proud parent of Lauren and Erin; and the caring uncle of Ronnette Marion Barnes; and

WHEREAS, he was also the dear brother of Mesdames Diana Haynes and Benna Hill; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the memory of Officer Donald Williams, remembering with admiration his sterling character and many selfless contributions to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Donald Williams.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.